



Congressman
**Rick
Boucher**

I hope that you will attend my 21st annual Southwest Virginia Burley Tobacco Growers Conference to be held on Monday, August 9, 2004. There is no fee for attending the conference, and I think that you will find the presentations to be highly relevant and informative. Lunch will be provided.

At this year's conference, I will provide detailed information concerning the legislation Congress is now considering to make substantial federal payments to both active tobacco growers and inactive quota owners by accomplishing a buyout of quota. The legislation would eliminate the cost of leasing, retain federal price supports and assure that tobacco farming in Southwest Virginia continues through a system of licences issued to active farmers.

I have arranged for presentations by expert speakers at this year's conference, including the heads of the Burley Tobacco Stabilization Cooperatives in Lexington, Kentucky, and Knoxville, Tennessee and a representative of the Virginia Farm Bureau. In addition, Phil Blevins, the head of the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission who will address these and other matters. In addition, Phil Blevins, the Washington County Extension Agent, will provide valuable and practical information regarding some innovative tobacco growing methods.

Our 21st annual conference will be held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, which is adjacent to Virginia Highlands Community College, located near exit 14 of Interstate 81 in Abingdon. A map showing directions to the Center is included in this brochure.

I hope that you will join with me and your neighboring tobacco farmers for these discussions. If you plan to attend, please let me know by detaching and returning this registration form to my Abingdon offices, or you may call us at 276-628-1145. I look forward to seeing you on Monday, August 9, 2004.

PROGRAM

**Congressman Rick Boucher's
Ninth District Burley Tobacco
Growers' Conference**

***Burley Tobacco
in the 21st Century***

*Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
Abingdon, Virginia*

Monday, August 9, 2004

In Cooperation with Virginia Farm Bureau

9:45 AM

WELCOMING REMARKS

Rick Boucher

United States Congress

SPEAKERS

Wilmer Stoneman

Virginia Farm Bureau

Charlie Finch

Burley Tobacco

Stabilization Cooperative

Danny McKinney

Burley Tobacco

Growers Cooperative

Phil Blevins

Washington County

Extension Agent

Congressman
Rick Boucher
invites you to his

21st Annual Ninth District Burley Tobacco Growers' Conference

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in the 21st Century***

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Monday, Aug. 9, 2004

*Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
ABINGDON*